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COUNTRY Thailand DATE DISTR 17 NOV 49

SUBJECT

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Proposed Appointment of Thumrong Navadawat

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NO. OF ENCLS.

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DATE OF INFO. 6 October 1949 and as noted

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- Upon Luang Thanrong Nawasawat's recent return to Thailand, a hasty conference of the "inner Coup council", composed of Phibul, Luang Mach Songgram, Khemchat Bunyarataphan, and Fhin Chunhawan, was convened to consider the appointment of the former Prime Minister to a Cabinet post.
- 2. Phin made the suggestion that Thamrong be named to the Cabinet after being convinced by Liang Chayakan that appointment of Thamrong would be of assistance in satisfying the United States that the Thai Government was actually a representative condition and therefore eligible to make military purchases. Liang also made the point that Tharrong would assist in pacifying the Democrats in Parliament.
- 3. Phibul supported the proposed appointment. Khemchat and Kach protested on the grounds that the 1947 Coup was effected for the sole purpose of ousting Thamrong and, therefore, Thamrong's appointment to a cabinet post would endanger the 1947 Coup clique's accomplishments. It was also pointed out that Thamrong's presence would antagonize the Democrats and possibly aid the rebirth of the Constitutional Front and Schacheep Parties, which already hold seats in Parliament. Kach even opposed Thamrong for personal reasons, stating that he had disliked him for a long period. After hearing these arguments. Phibul dropped the idea of appointing Thamrong to a Cabinet post,
- 4. Thanrong not only did not participate in the 26 February 1949 coup attempt, but he had not been advised that a coup was planned. It is not expected that Thanrong will be invited to take part in any future coup attempt. *

reported that Thamrong now is unpopular with the Prici-Navy clique. See this dissemination for further information on the 26 February 1949 coup attempt.

Comment. Should Thamrong ever become a member of the Government, his presence should not be construed to mean that he is a representative of cither the Pridi or Navy clique. There is a possibility that Thankong roturned to Thailand because he had no future outside of Thailand or with the Pridi-Navy clique. If Thamrong can escape a prison sentence and eventually secure a Government post, his lot would seem much brighter. An interesting factor in this report is the split aligning Phibul-Phin against Khemchat-Kach. Themrong's future activities may well be an indication as to

which side is the strong CLASSIFICATION X NSRB NAVY N DISTRIBUTION

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Most Review Date: 2008

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